

**Virginia Department of Health  
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #17  
July 24, 2006**

**WORLDWIDE UPDATE:** WHO has posted no new H5N1 influenza activity. The human case count stands at 231 cases and 133 deaths. USDA will send four veterinary specialists to Rome to assist the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in launching a new crisis management center to enhance worldwide response to animal disease. The Center will begin operations by the end of July. It will provide animal disease analysis and information and deploy international resources to prevent and contain dangerous animal diseases. The current focus will be on H5N1. The U.S. will provide \$1.8 million to FAO to create the Center. Other contributors include France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and the UK.

**VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office**

- Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz spoke to school nurses attending the School Health Services Institute at Longwood University addressing pandemic influenza. Focused on the impact and issues a pandemic would pose for schools. The Institute was attended by about 200 school nurses from throughout the Commonwealth and was sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education.
- VDH Training and Education Director gave a PanFlu presentation to the Virginia Chapter of Meeting Professionals International.
- VDH ordered an additional 3300 copies of the PanFlu Video. The original 5500 have been distributed
- Dr. Kaplowitz, Dr. Richard Wilkes (VDACS), and Dr. Dale Carroll (VHHA) were recently interviewed by Barbara Berlin, host of PBS "Perspectives" program. The segment focused on pandemic flu preparedness and included footage from the state pandemic flu summit. It aired on Friday, July 21 at 9pm and Sunday, July 23 at noon. PBS has indicated that they are interested in developing plans for additional shows on public health issues.
- State Emergency Planning Coordinator will participate in a Federal Reserve Bank, system-wide tabletop exercise at the Richmond Fed.
- State Emergency Planning Coordinator met with a representative of National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGIA) together with representatives from the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness, VITA and VDEM. NGIA is contracting with DHS and wants to determine what data points the Public Health / Healthcare communities would want to see on a GIS Database in preparation (and response) to PanFlu.
- State Emergency Planning Coordinator will meet with USNORTHCOM reps at Ft Monroe. They are standing up a DoD PanFlu Task Force.
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:
 

Loudoun	August 10
Near SW Region	August 22
Hampton Roads	August 22
Eastern Shore	August 8
Middle Peninsula	August 1
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

## VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

### **VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports**

- **Eastern Region** (Aggregated from previous regional unreported activities)
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Influenza for Emergency Managers at a monthly Regional Emergency Managers Tactical Advisory meeting
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Flu overview to combined VBMRC and VBCERT.
  - Regional Epidemiologist presented Pandemic Influenza to administrators at Virginia Wesleyan College.
  - MD Consultant wrote an article on Pandemic Flu for the Tidewater EMS Response Newsletter.
  - MD Consultant presented Antiviral Drugs for Influenza to Tidewater Infection Control Practitioners with Regional Epidemiologist and OCMS Forensic Epidemiologist.
  - Regional Epidemiologist presented Pandemic Influenza to the Norfolk Council on Aging.
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Influenza for EMS at the Tidewater EMS Medical Operations Committee meeting.
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Influenza Overview to medical staff at Sentara Leigh Memorial Hospital.
  - MD Consultant and District Epi participated in at pandemic flu table top exercise at Sentara Leigh Hospital.
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Influenza to the EVMS Emergency Medicine residents at a weekly education conference.
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Flu Planning for Colleges and Universities to the Virginia College and University Emergency Planners at the Virginia Emergency Management Conference.
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Influenza Planning for Community Physicians to the Riverside Medical Group with Hampton and Peninsula Health Directors.
  - MD Consultant presented Disaster Preparedness and Response in Hampton Roads at the EVMS Advancing Community Health Seminar on Disaster Preparedness - What Primary Care Physicians Need to Know.
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Influenza Planning for EMS at the Continuing Concepts in Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine Conference.
  - MD Consultant provided PanFlu Seminar for Hospital Public Information Officers
  - Seminar arranged by Regional PIO and Trainer.
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Influenza Planning for Colleges and Universities at the Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators annual conference.
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Influenza Planning for Utilities Directors and Regional Epidemiologist presented Surveillance Methods at the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Directors of Utilities and Directors of Health.
  - MD Consultant and Hampton Health Director met with Dr. Sammons VPMA at Sentara Williamsburg to discuss regional pandemic flu planning. Dr. Sammons is the Leader of the Sentara Systems Pandemic Flu Planning Group.
  - MD Consultant attended the Sentara Pandemic Flu Planning Group meeting.
  - MD Consultant presented Pandemic Influenza for Public Health at the EVMS/MPH Capstone Seminar.

- Regional team is planning the Regional Pandemic Flu Summit scheduled for Aug 22 and assisting Three Rivers and Eastern Shore in planning their pandemic flu summits scheduled for August 1 and August 8.
- **Southwest Region**
  - The Mt. Empire PanFlu Summit was held in Abingdon. Attendance was approximately 350. Co-sponsoring Virginia Health Districts included Cumberland Plateau, Lenowisco, and Mt. Rogers. In Tennessee, the co-sponsoring departments were Northeast Tennessee Regional Health Office and the Sullivan County, Tennessee, Regional Health Department. Speakers included VDH Deputy Commissioner Emergency Preparedness and Response, Director, Immunization Program, Tennessee Department of Health, and Poultry Pathologist, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Afternoon break-out sessions were held for functional groupings of attending personnel including First Responders, Local Government and Civic Organizations, Business and Industry, Schools, and Medical and Healthcare.
  - The SW Regional Team hosted a VideoTeleconference (polycom) Regional PanFlu Table Top Exercise with all 9 SW Region Health Districts and 102 staff members participating.

#### **VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Report**

- **Central Virginia**
  - Director, planner and the district epi response team participated in the SW regional table top exercise.
  - Director and planner met with emergency planners and PIOs from district jurisdictions to develop a district wide communications plan for any public health emergency.
  - Director spoke to a community group on pan flu and all hazards preparedness.
  - Director is working with Tharp Funeral Homes, which sponsors a series of public talks on health topics, to develop a series of community pan flu preparedness talks. Talks will be open to the entire community in September and October.
- **Chesapeake**
  - Regional Summit Workgroup meeting was hosted at Chesapeake Health Department to review the tentative agenda and summit content for the August 22nd Pandemic Influenza Summit – Hampton Roads.
  - The third Pandemic Influenza Task Force Meeting was held. There was an addition of several new members in attendance from the Home Healthcare and Business communities. Key topic items included creating a physician sub-committee as a link between planning and private physician communities, and modification of a business members' disaster planning manual to develop a model of Best Practice for future integration into community businesses.
- **Chesterfield**
  - Health Educators gave presentations on PanFlu to a long term care facility and to medical staff at a local practice Meeting of the PanFlu work group
  - Epidemiologist presented on PanFlu to a group of day care center employees.
  - Packets for physicians containing information on PanFlu and how to respond and prepare were assembled and handed out.
  - Flyers were designed and given to local Police departments to be distributed on during the National Night Out program.
  - 18 presentations on PanFlu have been scheduled for July and August.
- **Crater**

- Planner participated in the pandemic flu planning committee at Central State Hospital. She emphasized the importance of coordinating their planning efforts with the local planning teams and invited them to participate in the District Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Committee.
- Epidemiologist updated the Crater Health District Advisory Board members on pandemic flu initiatives undertaken by District staff since March.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
  - Planner communicated daily with local counterparts in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to plan the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit.
  - Director, Epidemiologist, and Planner participated in the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Committee teleconference. Participants called in from local public health agencies representing Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and North Carolina Health Departments.
- **Lenowisco**
  - Epidemiologist met with the Scott County Administrator to schedule a meeting with County Administrators and Town Managers in September.
  - Epidemiologist spoke with the Scott County Superintendent to schedule a meeting with the Principals.
  - Met with Safety Officer with Flatwoods Job Corps to schedule another Pandemic Flu presentation for the forestry department. Will continue working with Job Corps to provide training.
- **Loudoun**
  - Contacted three members of Loudoun Chamber of Commerce to secure member contact information to be used for outreach for business seminars.
  - Met with local American Red Cross (ARC) chapter representative to secure ARC continuity of operations planning packets for Business seminars.
  - Sent mass email advertising First Responder seminars to all law enforcement, fire/EMS, and volunteer organizations in the first responder community.
  - Distributed flyers for First Responder PanFlu sessions at Sheriff's Office, Police Stations, and other first responder bases.
  - Posted information on the Government PanFlu seminar on the Loudoun County Government intranet.
  - Secured alternate venue for Government seminar at Company 1 Volunteer Fire Station to be used in place of County Government Building
  - Sent mass email advertising two PanFlu seminars for businesses to over 800 Loudoun County business firms.
  - Developed advertisement for General Public Summit and contacted local newspapers for quotes and deadlines.
  - Began contacting faith-based organizations to advertise General Public Summit and began distributing Summit flyers to high-volume businesses and municipal buildings.
  - Approved a proof of a home planning guide booklet and ordered printing of 4000 copies to be distributed at General Public Summit and October POD exercise.
  - Scheduled individual presentations with Falcon's Landing Retirement Community (about 500 retired military residents), The Johnson Center, and the Leesburg Historic District Residents' Association.
  - Submitted advertisements to be posted on Leesburg signs on S. King Street and E. Market Street for the August Public Summit.

- Conducted the first of two 2.5 hours PanFlu seminar for First Responders with about 30 in attendance representing: law enforcement, Virginia Defense Force, EMS (career and volunteer), Fire, CERT volunteers, MRC volunteers, and ARC.
- Designed and erected a pandemic flu public display story board that is featured in the main lobby of the Loudoun County Government Center
- Provided PanFlu presentation to the Council on Aging.
- Conducted a second PanFlu seminar on Saturday, for medical and veterinary personnel. Attended by about 25 representatives of acute care, private medical offices, long-term care, school health staff (private and public), and CDC quarantine medical officer.

**"FLU the COOP" County Senior Management Continuity of Business Exercise:**

- Planned, organized and conducted (in conjunction with county Office of Emergency Management) a Loudoun County Government and Town of Leesburg continuity of operations exercise based upon an influenza pandemic scenario. This 4 hour tabletop exercise was attended by 90 senior level personnel representing 28 county agencies and administration, led by the Health Director and facilitated by Health Dept. pandemic flu team and emergency management staff. COOP gaps were identified around PanFlu phases of "it's coming", "it's here", "and it's bad". Follow up steps were outlined by the CAO. A representative from VACO observed the proceedings

**Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise ("Code Flu 06"):**

- Met and coordinated with Prince William Health District Health Director, CodeFlu 06 POC, and management staff to discuss Prince William staffing for the exercise, to provide an overview of the exercise, and to address any questions and concerns regarding the exercise to date. A PowerPoint presentation was given.

● **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**

- Epidemiologist mailed out over 400 copies of his quarterly newsletter to local physicians and infection control professionals. It included as an insert a flier for our upcoming presentation by the Regional Industrial Hygienist "Essential Elements of a Respiratory Protection Program" as well as info on his upcoming presentation "Focus on Flu" which will address influenza surveillance.
- Director is presenting information on pandemic influenza to the "Regional Literacy Coordinating Committee V".
- Attended planning conference for Region 2 VDEM exercise (Pan Flu scenario) in Fredericksburg.
- Scheduled community presentation for Material association in Shenandoah County in conjunction with private partner, Edward Jones Investments.
- Held meeting of the Frederick/Winchester PanFlu Operations task force (city and county fire/rescue, law enforcement, emergency management, public health and Valley Health.) Discussed COOP for critical public services and the formation of a Joint Information Center, and JIC operational document.

● **Norfolk**

- Meeting of the Norfolk Local Emergency Planning Committee. Planning emphasizing communication channels and supports prior to and during emergencies and business continuity planning for disruptions including pandemic influenza. Emphasizing public education and awareness objectives for community pandemic influenza, and communication during emergencies.
- Meeting with Old Dominion University, and ODU Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee. Review of draft planning for university. Representation of student health, human resources, safety and security and other university areas.
- Meeting of the Norfolk Health Services Advisory Committee.

- Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response HealthCare Committee, discussion of surge capacity and exercises addressed.
- Meeting with the Norfolk Homeless Consortium. Discussion by Norfolk Emergency Manager of hurricane planning, and District Director on pandemic influenza planning.
- Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics meeting. Encouragement to assure pediatric representation in emergency planning, and direction to local planning activities, DHHS and FEMA websites.
- Norfolk Academy of Medicine Executive Committee Monthly Meeting. Focus on considerations for local office and patient planning, communication for upcoming influenza season, review of surveillance activities.
- Preparation and airing of HealthWatch (NDPH monthly production on city cable channel 48) presentation by Southeastern Virginia Chapter American Red Cross and NDPH planner on cooperative emergency preparedness, including pandemic influenza.
- Epidemiology has daily contact with hospitals, infection control practitioners, physician's offices. Communications and response to providers tested regularly, on and off hours.
- Ongoing discussion with individual city department heads re: continuity of operations planning under illness conditions. Review with public safety departments of rapid distribution procedures and security concerns.
- Annual occupational health updates for all NDPH employees, including fit testing for all possible.
- Active NDPH involvement in distribution procedures and reviews for vaccines and medications and cold chain procedures reviews.
- Meeting with Norfolk Emergency Manager and Virginian Pilot representatives in preparation for internal Virginian Pilot planning scheduled in September.
- Preparation of HealthWatch presentation to be taped for city cable channel 48 on pandemic influenza and the role of immunizations (National Immunization Awareness Month)
- Presentation "Pandemic Influenza" to EVMS Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds June 27 with Regional Medical Consultant.
- Presentation to Norfolk Baptist Association.
- Eastern Region Pandemic Influenza Conference August 22, Norfolk Airport Hilton.
- Project Homeless Connect. Multi-agency screening and service provider activity for the homeless at Norfolk Scope Exhibition Hall. Exercise of planning, logistics-off site service, follow-up) Similar activity in October 2005 processed approx. 375, 175 with health screens.
- Airport tabletop exercise scheduled on August 17 (Pandemic influenza specific table top will be later in fall)
- Civic league presentations in August and September.
- **Rappahannock**
  - District finalized a new Health Educator position, with the Mary Washington Hospital Foundation matching funds, to formalize a unique partnership in pandemic influenza public preparedness.
  - Online Training completion of IS-700 for staff continues.
  - Clinic management training (Rappahannock MRC) conducted.
  - Mary Washington Hospital Surge Committee met.
  - Pan Flu Social Services Sub-committee meeting held.

- Pan Flu Law Enforcement Sub-committee meeting held.
- Pan Flu Volunteers Sub-committee meeting held.
- Pandemic Flu Working Group meeting held.
- RAHD internal pan flu meeting held.
- VDEM Region 2 Pan Flu/COOP Tabletop exercise planning meeting held.
- Pan Flu Special Needs Sub-committee meeting held.
- King George County Pan Flu COOP Tabletop Exercise Conducted.
- **Rappahannock-Rapidan**
  - Presentation to nursing home (The village at Gordon House) staff - 40 people.
  - Delivered voice-over PowerPoint and DVD to Orange County nursing home - used for staff training with very positive feedback.
  - Presentation to State Police meeting - 60 people.
  - Compiled data from the Pandemic Flu Summit and submitted for posting on state website.
  - Completed design and ordering of materials for public awareness campaign through schools.
  - Making copies of voice-over PowerPoint for first responders for distribution in the next few weeks.
  - Met with hospitals for continued surge planning.
- **Southside**
  - Staff gave presentations to two Baptist Church Associations. The two Associations represent about 46 churches from the area. Churches discussed setting up internal committees to plan, prepare disaster kits for people in community, and develop a “buddy” system to follow up with special needs people, fill up “pantries” for the needy.
  - Planner and Pan Flu Administrative Assistant put together a Disaster Kit to take to the PanFlu/ Readiness presentations. A kit will be provided for each county to use.
  - Continued efforts to outreach to churches in the communities to set up presentations.
  - Dates established to present PanFlu info to Brunswick County School nurses and teachers.
  - Planner contacted Halifax County School system to set-up date for PanFlu presentation.
- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville / Albermarle Area)**
  - Epidemiologist attended the Nelson County Interagency Council in Lovingston as featured speaker for this monthly meeting, which was set up by the Public Health Nurse in Nelson County.
  - Gave a 75 minute presentation on Pandemic Influenza - The Public Health Approach. Each attendee received an information packet as well as a copy of the VDH PanFlu Video. Response from meeting indicated high levels of interest in PanFlu.
  - Public Infrastructure and Educational Groups met; discussed integration of School Plan into local plan.
  - Attempts are being made to get security plans from several agencies within the community to include, UVA, Charlottesville City Police, Albemarle County Police
  - Director attended the UVA Emerging Disease Committee to discuss preparedness for PanFlu.
- **Western Tidewater**
  - Director and Planner presented Pandemic Influenza lecture to the Medical Staff of Southampton Memorial Hospital.
  - Planner presented Pandemic Influenza Video and lecture to the Suffolk LEPC.

- Continue planning for WTHD Pandemic Influenza Drill to coincide with Fall State Exercise.
- Continue planning for the WTHD Pandemic Influenza Seminar for Adult Long Term Care and Residential Facilities.
- Continue Pandemic Influenza discussions at the monthly Suffolk Biological Terrorism Advisory Committee (BTAC).
- Suffolk Public Cable Channel 8 requested additional air time for the Pandemic Influenza Video. (Request granted).